29. A composition according to claim 25, wherein interference pigment is selected from the group consisting of mica coated with TiO_2, mica coated with Fe_2O_3, mica coated with both TiO_2 and Fe_2O_3, mica coated with both TiO_2 and graphite and BiOCl.

30. A composition according to claim 25, wherein said interference pigment is mica coated with TiO_2 further containing in the coating at least one of graphite and SnO_2.

31. The method of claim 18, wherein the composition comprising at least one interference pigment is also applied to a background locus of the plant. --

REMARKS

The Amendments

The claims are replaced with new claims clarifying the invention.

The amendments should not be interpreted as an acquiescence to any objection or rejection made in this application but are made only to clarify the invention and/or expedite the prosecution of this application. To the extent that the amendments avoid the prior art, competitors are warned that the amendments are not intended to and do not limit the scope of equivalents which may be asserted on subject matter outside the literal scope of any patented claims but not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing and/or divisional applications directed to any subject matter disclosed in the application which has been canceled by any of the above amendments.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Cropu (Abstract 1992-82810) and CABA (Abstract CABA 76:32337) is respectfully traversed.

Attached is the full article from which the Cropu abstract derived. Citation to this article will be made below and, to the extent this reference continues to be relied upon, it is requested that the full reference be utilized.

Each of the Cropu and CABA references disclose methods for applying a reflective aluminum-based material to mulch around plants or to strips or rows between rows of plants for lessening the incidence of certain insects and their associated diseases on the plants.

Neither of the references disclose or suggest a method which:

- involves applying a reflective material, or material of any kind, to at least one plant surface, or
- involves applying a composition containing an interference pigment to at least one surface of a plant.

There is no suggestion from the references or otherwise to apply reflective materials directly to the plant surfaces. To the contrary, one of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonably expected that application of a highly reflective material, such as aluminum materials, to the plants would be harmful to their growth, for example, due to blockage of wavelengths of light need for growth. Compare, for example, the disclosure in the paragraph bridging pages 3-4 of the specification disclosing that an advantage of the invention is providing wavelength dependent reflection in the infrared region.

Further, there is no suggestion in the art to use interference pigments as the material for lessening the incidence of insects. The art teaches only the use of highly reflective aluminum materials. There is no suggestion from the references that a material with only a limited range of reflectivity could provide a same or similar effect to aluminum materials. There is no suggestion from the art that a material exhibiting only selective reflection properties would reflect in the region needed for the insect-lessening effect. To the contrary, from the teachings of the references, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect a detrimental effect when a less reflective material is used. The interference pigments used according to applicants'invention provide the further advantage of not causing significant heating while providing the advantageous effect; see, e.g., the paragraph bridging pages 3-4 of the specification.

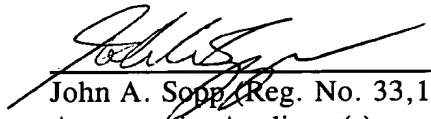
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of the Cropu and CABA references, considered together as a whole, fail to render the claimed invention obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. There is no suggestion of applying a

reflective material directly to a plant surface for lessening insects and there is no suggestion to apply an interference pigment having only limited reflective properties to achieve such result. Certainly, there is no suggestion of a method having both of these aspects. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

Additionally, it is submitted that the abstract of JP 60 149508 (already of record) also does not render the claimed invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103. This reference discloses applying a fine white mineral powder to citrus plants to prevent damage from thrips. Although the fine white mineral powder may have a reflective property, it is not an interference pigment nor suggestive of using an interference pigment for this purpose.

It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. However, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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